

- Develop and enhance outreach efforts of the Justice and Safety Center, the Training Resource Center, and the Center for Criminal Justice Education and Research. Pursue and implement initiatives with the Cabinet for Economic Development's Office of Innovation and Commercialization for a Knowledge-based Economy.

Kentucky State University

CPE Key Indicators of Progress

KSU met its performance goals for:

- Graduate enrollment, which increased from 146 in 2002 to 168 in 2003.
- The number of community and technical college transfers, which increased from 17 in 2002 to 21 in 2003.
- The six-year graduation rate of bachelor's degree students, which increased from 27.2 percent in 2002 to 39 percent in 2003.
- Several benchmarks in the 2003 National Survey of Student Engagement: First-year students scored KSU higher than predicted on three of five benchmarks—*level of academic challenge*, *student interactions with faculty members*, and *enriching educational experiences*. Seniors scored KSU higher than predicted on one of the five benchmarks—*enriching educational experiences*.

KSU did not meet its performance goals for:

- Undergraduate enrollment, which despite increasing from 2,107 in 2002 to 2,138 in 2003, remained below the goal.
- The retention rate of first-time freshmen, which despite increasing from 62.3 percent in 2002 to 67.7 percent in 2003, remained below the goal.
- Several benchmarks in the 2003 National Survey of student Engagement: First-year students scored KSU lower than predicted on *active and collaborative learning* and *supportive campus environment*. Seniors scored KSU lower than predicted on the four benchmarks other than *enriching educational experiences*.

The 2003 National Survey of Student Engagement also revealed:

- Forty-nine percent of first-year students and 38 percent of seniors participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course.
- Thirty-six percent of first-year students and 44 percent of seniors participated in volunteer work outside of class.
- Twenty-eight percent of first-year students and 41 percent of seniors reported that their college experience contributed to knowledge, skills, and personal development in contributing to the welfare of their community, compared to 27 and 56 percent respectively in 2001.
- Twenty-nine percent of first-year students and 32 percent of seniors reported that their experiences at KSU contributed to the development of their voting behavior.

For the purposes of the *Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities*:

- In 2002-03, KSU showed continuous progress on five of seven objectives, qualifying for automatic eligibility status (i.e., KSU was automatically eligible to add new degree programs during 2004). Performance for 2003-04 will not be available until January 2005.

During the 2003-04 academic year, KSU achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the PRAXIS II Examination.

Additional Institutional Measures

The following represent additional indicators by which KSU measures its progress toward the goals of HB 1:

- During the 2003-04 academic year, KSU achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the PRAXIS II Examination. The School of Education is continuing to promote and support student success by establishing a policy that students must pass the Praxis exam before graduation, aligning curricula to the test, and offering opportunities such as PRAXIS II prep classes and tutoring sessions. The University is preparing for the NCATE visit in spring 2005 by ensuring all components of the Comprehensive Assessment Plan for the teacher education program have been addressed.
- During the 2003-04 academic year, 29 nursing students took the NCLEX Examination with a 100 percent pass rate. A total of 30 students graduated: 26 with associate degrees and four with bachelor of science degrees in nursing.
- A "Rising Junior Assessment" (RJA) is administered to a sample of

students with 60 semester hours of collegiate level credits to determine if they have acquired a quality liberal arts or general education. In fall 2003, 119 students tested and all received passing scores; 59 students earned scores at or above the national average for one or more subjects. In spring 2004, 110 students tested and all received passing scores; 50 earned scores at or above the national average for one or more subjects.

Program of Distinction

KSU's aquaculture program has statewide responsibility for all aspects of aquaculture in Kentucky (KRS 260.039). Production acreage in Kentucky continues to increase; a recent assessment report by the VanErden Group, commissioned by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, found that annual income for aquaculture in Kentucky could readily exceed \$15 million with proper support for expansion, diversification, and technical assistance.

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Highlights in 2003-04 include:

- The academic year 2003-04 represented a year of growth and expansion. Program productivity remained very high with the publication of 27 refereed journal articles, seven book chapters, and 44 abstracts. Students were heavily involved in this research, authoring 11 of the journal articles and 20 of the published abstracts.
- In September 2003, bids were opened for a new multi-purpose building at the Aquaculture Research Center. The structure will contain the Division's first "real" classroom, which will be equipped with distance learning technologies so faculty can teach at other schools in Kentucky, the U.S., and the world. The building also will house a seminar room (capacity 50), a library, a disease diagnostic laboratory, a food science/processing lab, several faculty offices, and much-needed space for graduate students. Each student will have a dedicated computer and study space.
- Recently completed facility enhancements include a pond-microcosm facility with twenty-four 5,000-gallon tanks supplied with reservoir water. This capacity is needed to support the thesis research requirements for graduate students. A renovation of the main water supply reservoir also was completed. This project should almost double the supply of surface water available for the research facility.
- The renovation of an unused computer van into a state-of-the-art mobile aquaculture classroom holds unlimited potential, as it will be used

to teach aquaculture to primary, middle, and secondary schools across Kentucky and surrounding states. The program has identified over 70 K-12 programs across Kentucky already teaching aquaculture or using aquaculture in their science curricula. The statewide educator at KSU who will be working with the K-12 teachers also will serve as a recruiter for both the undergraduate and graduate programs at KSU.

- In 2003, Kentucky farm-raised freshwater prawn were processed at the Purchase Area Cooperative and, for the first time, sold at four Kroger stores in Louisville, Lexington, and Frankfort. This effort is being expanded to over 50 Kroger stores in 2004.
- Aquaculture's media outreach also has experienced dramatic growth. The web site, www.ksuaquaculture.org, received approximately 1,800 hits per month, or 22,000 for the year. Two primary publications were developed: 1) "Selling Freshwater Prawns at Kentucky Food Festivals," a 30-page manual providing the basics of site selection, regulations, permits and inspections, economics, equipment, booth layout, and insurance; and 2) "Processing and Marketing Aquaculture Products on a Small Scale," a 95-page guide that has been disseminated statewide, nationally, and internationally. Four-color display recruiting ads for the aquaculture program and its fish genetics online course were placed in three publications: *World Aquaculture*, *American Fisheries*, and *Aquaculture Magazine*. An 11" X 17", four-color poster featuring 12 photos of aquaculture students and faculty was produced to aid student recruitment.

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Collaborative Programs and Initiatives

Kentucky State University entered into a number of new collaborative programs and initiatives to increase the quality and access of its offerings, consistent with the objectives of HB 1. Significant partnerships include:

- The Criminal Justice program expects to finalize an agreement with Lexington Community College (LCC) in fall 2004 to allow LCC students who complete requirements for an Associate degree in criminal justice to take upper division courses at Kentucky State University and receive a baccalaureate degree in criminal justice. KSU plans to formulate articulation agreements with other KCTCS institutions with Associate degrees in Criminal Justice.
- A Memorandum of Agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky Commerce Cabinet, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (DFWR), and Kentucky State University to provide scholarships for KSU

students in criminal justice who agree to work for the DFWR immediately upon graduation for a period equal to the length of the scholarship. To be eligible, students must have completed 30 semester hours, be enrolled as a full-time student at KSU, have a cumulative GPA of 2.8, and have declared a major in criminal justice.

- Enhancements to the University Scholars Program and the endorsement curriculum offered in conjunction with the University of Kentucky to prepare KSU majors in social work for graduate study at UK or for work as a rehabilitation counselor. KSU students who complete the endorsement curriculum (four rehabilitation courses taught by UK faculty on KSU's campus) can receive a certificate qualifying them to work as a rehabilitation counselor, as well as credit that can be applied toward a graduate degree in vocational rehabilitation at UK.
- A partnership with the Cabinet for Families and Children, Department for Community Based Services to provide scholarships for KSU social work majors who are interested in working for the state in the area of child abuse. Students accepted into the program receive tuition scholarships for four semesters as well as a \$1,300 stipend each semester.
- An articulation agreement with KCTCS for an online psychology class, which was finalized March 2004.
- An agreement among KSU's Office of Continuing and Distance Education, its School of Business, and the Kentucky Real Estate Certification Board for a real estate pre-license certification program that prepares students for Kentucky's real estate licensing exams. In August 2004, the Kentucky Real Estate Certification Board approved KSU as an authorized pre-licensing certification training institution. This program is funded through a grant awarded by the Kentucky Real Estate Commission (KREC). The Office of Continuing and Distance Education is currently investigating the possibility of starting a real estate appraisal program.

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Major Initiatives for Next Year

The most significant initiatives slated for 2004-05 will focus on improving student advising and increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates, which are areas of concern for KSU.

To increase enrollment, KSU will:

- Develop an enrollment management team and an enrollment action team to study issues related to the first-year experience (new student

orientation, effective student advising, registration, etc.) and recommend changes as necessary.

- Develop and use a student success team to provide feedback and suggestions for improving the KSU student experience.
- Place an undergraduate application for admission on www.GoHigherKy.org, a Web portal sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority in partnership with the Council.
- With the University Faculty Senate, respective academic deans and department chairs, and university faculty, establish and articulate clear, comprehensive, and coherent enrollment goals for the 2005-2006 cycle. The criteria for the development of enrollment goals will include: number of new students desired; qualitative characteristics of those new students; desired geographic distribution; and desired ethnicity, age, and gender.
- Based on articulated enrollment goals, identify specific themes to be used in an effective marketing and recruitment plan. Produce a DVD that can be disseminated to prospective students.
- Organize and activate the Enrollment Management Advisory Council (EMAC), to be composed of exemplary secondary school counselors from targeted Kentucky counties. The council will advise the institution on matters related to effective marketing of KSU to targeted areas of the Commonwealth.
- Thoroughly review and revise formal letters and materials used to influence prospective students to enroll.
- Continue to provide skill development opportunities for high school students who are academically unprepared for college-level work through the Summer Bridge Program.
- Continue and improve current outreach programs for minority and disadvantaged middle and high school students to increase early college awareness and planning.
- Provide admissions and financial aid counselors with formal training in relationship management that covers such topics as working with students, interviewing techniques, and presentation skills.
- Visit each high school in Kentucky at least once a year. Use alumni, current students, and data to shape high school counselors' perceptions of KSU.
- Develop non-traditional channels for disseminating KSU marketing materials, such as partnerships with regional churches to provide information directly to youth who attend affiliated churches throughout the state.
- Structure and implement an admissions flow system that facilitates

greater levels of cooperation among offices, as well as punctual and continuous follow through regarding admissions procedures and processes. Provide comprehensive training sessions for selected staff to support all elements of enrollment management.

To improve student advising, KSU will:

- Facilitate a thorough assessment of current advising procedures in an effort to ensure that the most effective system is utilized.
- Identify and assign of a cadre of skilled, effective academic advisors from across academic units who will be charged with and compensated for the implementation of systematic student advisement.
- Undertake a strategic tele-counseling initiative aimed at improving student advising through the implementation of a proven technological model to document and monitor advising activities and provide immediate feedback to students.

KSU will continue to implement previous initiatives to increase enrollment and retention, such as:

- Revamping the First-Year Experience (FYE) program, strengthening the university orientation program (UNV 101), and providing freshman convocations addressing academic, social, economic, and cultural challenges.
- Strengthening student support services, such as the Communication Skills Center (CSC) and the Peers Empowering Peers (PEP) program.
- Strengthening the center for non-traditional students to provide mentoring and tutorial services.
- Increasing evening and weekend course offerings on and off campus to better accommodate students' educational needs.
- Increasing online and alternative course offerings through the Office of Community and Distance Education.
- Enhancing opportunities for faculty development.
- Devising more user-oriented services for the KSU library, once it achieves more stability with a full complement of staff.
- Establishing a curriculum library for education majors in Hathaway Hall.
- Planning a visiting faculty program with special appeal to outstanding African-American faculty members with an interest in teaching at an

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